

## Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06

DHA-02 ACDA-07 SAJ-01 OMB-01 TRSE-00 /082 W

-----110832Z 005045 /13

R 101617Z FEB 77

FM AMEMBASSY VIENNA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0768

INFO AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

AMEMBASSY BERLIN

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY PRAGUE

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY WARSAW

USMISSION GENEVA

USNATO BRUSSELS 1858

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EO 11652: NA

TAGS: PFOR, SHUM, CSCE, CS, AU

SUBJECT: LATEST AUSTRIAN DEVELOPMENTS RE CHARTER 77

REF: VIENNA 0911

1. AUSTRIAN MEDIA CONTINUED THIS WEEK TO GIVE PROMINENT COVERAGE TO HUMAN RIGHTS STRUGGLE IN SOVIET UNION AND EE COUNTRIES WITH GEATEST ATTENTION FOCUSED ON DEVELOPMENTS RLATING TO CHARTER 77. AUSTRIAN POLITICAL LEADERS, BY WORD AND DEED, CONTINUE TO SET PACE OF EFFORT TO ASSIST CHARTER 77 SIGNERS AND TO DISSUADE CZECHOSLOVAK GOVERNMENT FROM CONTINUING ITS CAMPAIGN OF INTIMIDATION AGAINST THEM.

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2. ON FEBRUARY 9 SMALL DELEGATION FROM AUSTRIAN BRANCH OF AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL UNSUCCESSFULLY ATTEMPTED TO PRESENT TO CZECHOSLOVAK AMBASSADOR IN VIENNA A PETITION CALLING ON CZECHOSLOVAK GOVERNMENT TO DROP ITS CAMPAIGN AGAINST CHARTER 77 SIGNERS AND TO RELEASE THOSE BEING FORCIBLY HELD BY AUTHORITIES IN CONNECTION WITH CAMPAIGN. AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL REPORTEDLY NOW

PLANS TO WRITE TO CZECHOSLOVAK AMBASSADOR ON SUBJECT.  
PETITION, SIGNED BY ABOUT 16,500 AUSTRIAN IN VIENNA  
IN TEN-DAY PERIOD, CONTAINS SIGNATURES OF CHANCELLOR  
KRESIKY AND MAIN OPPOSITION PEOPLE'S PARTY CHAIRMAN  
TAUS AS WELL AS NUMEROUS MEMBERS OF OPINION-MOLDING  
ELITES IN ALL FIELDS OF ACTIVITY.

3. AUSTRIAN SOCIALIST PARTY PAPER ARBEITER ZEITUNG  
(AZ) OF FEBRUARY 10, UNDER FRONT-PAGE HEADLINE  
"DUBCEK BREAKS SILENCE TO INDICATE HIS FULL SUPPORT  
FOR CHARTER 77", REPORTED THAT CONTACT MAN FROM  
CHARTER 77 GROUP HAD VERY RECENTLY BEEN IN TOUCH WITH  
DUBCEK WHO GAVE ORAL MESSAGE EXPRESSING HIS COMPLETE  
SOLIDARITY WITH CONTENTS OF CHARTER 77. DUBCEK  
REPORTEDLY ALSO STATED THAT HE HAD NOT REFUSED TO  
SIGN CHARTER BUT RATHER HAD BEEN PREVENTED FROM DOING

SO BY EXTREMELY TIGHT SECURITY SURVEILLANCE MAINTAINED  
OVER HIS PERSON AND THAT TEXT OF CHARTER 77 WAS  
TOTALLY IN ACCORD WITH WHAT HE HIMSELF HAD EXPRESSED  
IN HIS LETTERS IN THE PAST. AZ ARTICLE MADE POINT THAT  
DUBCEK'S ORAL ENDORSEMENT OF CHARTER 77 NOW PUT TO  
REST ALLEGATION OF COMMUNIST PRESS IN AUSTRIA,  
REPEATED SEVERAL TIMES IN RECENT DAYS, THAT DUBCEK  
HAD REFUSED TO SIGN CHARTER 77.

4. CHANCELLOR KREISKY, AT PRESS CONFERENCE IN  
STOCKHOLM FEBRUARY 9 IN CONNECTION WITH UNOFFICIAL  
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VISIT TO SWEDEN, AGAIN CRITICIZED CZECHOSLOVAK REGIME  
ON ITS TREATMENT OF CHARTER 77 SIGNERS. HE INDICATED  
THAT HE DID NOT BELIEVE GOC WOULD TAKE TOUGHER STANCE  
WITH CHARTER 77 SUPPORTERS IN VIEW OF CSCE FOLLOW-UP  
CONFERENCE IN BELGRADE LATER THIS YEAR. HE PREDICTED  
THAT GOC WOULD EASE UP ON ITS ANTI-CHARTER 77 CAMPAIGN,  
POSSIBLY WITHOUT ANY EXPULSIONS FROM CZECHOSLOVAKIA.  
CHANCELLOR REITERATED READINESS OF AUSTRIA TO WELCOME  
"FRIENDS OF REFORM WHO ARE FIGHTING FOR HUMAN RIGHTS  
IN CZECHOSLOVAKIA" SHOULD THEY BE FORCED TO LEAVE THEIR  
OWN COUNTRY.

5. AUSTRIAN TV CARRIED EVENING FEBRUARY 9, IN  
CONNECTION WITH REPORTING DEVELOPMENTS LISTED PARA 2

AND 3 ABOVE, FILM SHOTS OF UNSUCCESSFUL EFFORT OF  
AMNESTY DELEGATION TO PRESENT PETITION TO CZECHOSLOVAK  
AMBASSADOR AT EMBASSY AND OF DUBCEK, FIRST IN EARLIER

ROLE AS LEADER OF PRAGUE SPRINGMOVEMENT AND MORE  
RECENTLY AS FORESTRY WORKER UNDER CLOSE SURVEILLANCE  
IN SLOVAKIA. MEEHAN

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptoning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** INFORMATION MEDIA, HUMAN RIGHTS, POLICIES  
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**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
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**Disposition Date:** 22 May 2009  
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**Disposition History:** n/a  
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**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
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**Review Markings:**  
Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
22 May 2009  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009